

The United Life Messenger

Enlightenment for Successful Living in the 21st Century

Volume 19, Number 9

September 2015



United Life Center for Spiritual Living
Oklahoma City

*A Member of Centers for Spiritual Living®
Joyfully Expressing Spirit*

*Celebrating
60 Years
in OKC
1955 - 2015*

Celebration Service

10:30 am each Sunday

September Theme

Open a new door for someone every day!!

SEP 6 Real Soul Food

SEP 13 Celebrate and Remember

SEP 20 Begin Again!

SEP 27 Ready! Set! Grow!



60th Birthday Celebration

September 13, 2015

Thanks to all those that have helped make it happen and to everyone who chooses to share this very special occasion with us.

We're sincerely grateful for all of you!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Events/Activities2
- Leadership Council Communiqué....3
- From the Desk of Dr SuZ4
- After Further Review (Rev Bill)5
- Ernest Holmes 6-7
- Vacation Bible School Highlights8
- “Let Go & Sing!” Poem9
- Information & Support 10
- Calendar..... 11
- Vision and Mission Statement 12

I ENVISION A LIFE BLESSED WITH LOVE, JOY, EASE, PROSPERITY & HEALTH

The United Life Messenger

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Published monthly by
United Life Center for
Spiritual Living—OKC

**We're available
via email.**
Just let us know you'd like
to be added to the email
list!

Join our Google Group!

For more info:
email Nina W-VZ:
wvzarts@gmail.com

Notes from the United Life Community Garden...

We have a fall garden now that includes pumpkins, butternut squash, spinach, black- & red-eyed peas, pole beans and green tomatoes (that we trust will soon be turning red; we haven't had tomatoes in a while since the weather hasn't cooperated) We'd be grateful for your help! If you would like to participate, see Rick or Chereé

*Join us most Saturdays for a Gardening Party!
(or help whenever your schedule allows)*

New Classes!

Visioning—8 weeks
Tues, 10am-1pm or 6-9p
Join by 22SEP

Foundations—16 weeks
Wed, 10am-1pm
Join through SEP

**5 Gifts for an Abundant Life
8 weeks**
Thurs, 6-9p
Join by 24SEP

Please join us!

Bookstore at ULSC

We have many great titles, plus
incense, incense holders and oils!
Stop by for inspiration!

ULSC Healing Room

The Healing Room is available for healers of
every kind, on a love offering
basis!
To reserve the room,
call the office (946-6753)



Monthly Birthday Sunday

Our current cake
donor will provide the Birthday
Sunday cake through December!
**We need a new cake person for
January onward!**

Let us know if you'd like to
contribute in this way!

TREAT FOR 100: Join the 100 Club!
Treat daily for 100 or more people in
attendance at United Life by the end
of 2015! Sample treatment: "I cele-
brate and rejoice in the abundant
flow of people seeking to know more
about the God of abundance and
Truth and who joyously attend Unit-
ed Life services as we allow God to be
the instrument of growth working for
the best and highest good for all con-
cerned! relax and know that God is
growing in our midst as new and re-
turning members fill the pews in the
sanctuary to 100 or more attendees
by the end of 2015! And so It is!!"

Leadership Council Communiqué

All Aboard! The Birthday Train is Getting Ready to Leave!

The following message was suggested to me by my wife and spiritual advisor, Mary Strasner. I thank her profusely for her generous input and all that she does for this Church.

Our Church is now 60 years old; think about all that entails. For most people, 60 is a milestone birthday, a transition birthday, full of the promise of retirement and a time to reflect on the past. Since 1955 (the Eisenhower years), there has been a New Thought Presence in Oklahoma City, the Cowboy buckle of the Bible Belt. We have been "honoring the presence of God in all and nurturing and supporting spiritual growth and transformation" for 60 years. We have been open and accepting and cherishing of all who have entered our doors. We have built and maintained a large and beautiful building and grounds. We have sustained a loving community of New Thinkers through difficult recessions, controversies, and periods without guiding ministers. We are still here and now. Never the less, always the more, we are in a growth period with endless possibilities ahead.

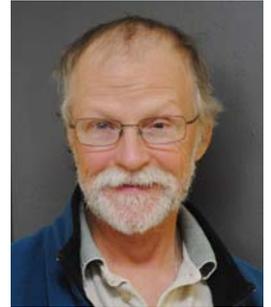
So, what are you "giving the Church for its

birthday"? Do you have some gift that you could contribute to this relationship? Are you artistic? Do you contribute financially? Might you enjoy helping with food preparation, cleaning up and decorating the Social Hall, cleaning up after the party, or participating in the Talent Show? Always remember that your talents, your sweat, your participation in classes, your prayers & treatments, and your financial support are part of what keeps this Church growing and prospering. Coming to Church each week is a chance to practice your love & compassion, your kindness & generosity, your understanding & knowledge of SOM Principles, and the joy & excitement of being around fellow practitioners of our faith.

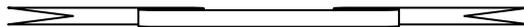
So, if you want to contribute your gift to our September 13th Birthday Party, please talk to Anna, SuZ, Deanie, or Ruth. There are lots of ways that you can express your uniqueness in this project. Besides, the Church wants to "look its best" for its Birthday. How might you be on hand to enhance, beautify, or repair?

Thanks and Namaste,

~Rick



Rick Wicker
Leadership Council
President



Creative Spirits

We meet each 2nd & 4th Saturday @ Christine Baldwin's house. Please call her at: 943-426 for directions.



TONING CIRCLE

NEW SCHEDULE!

The singing bowl Toning and Meditation Circle now meets the **second Sunday** of each month at **5:00 pm** at United Life.

From The Desk of Dr. SuZ



Dr SuZ Ogden
Music Director

*After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion
felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up
until a hunter came along and shot him.
The moral: When you're full of bull, keep
your mouth shut.*

~Will Rogers

Dear Friends,

I love to read quotes as part of my spiritual practice on as many mornings as I can. This was the one I read today as I began to write this article for The Messenger. So today, rather than overthinking and overwriting a bit of philosophy, I would like to just send out words of gratitude to all of you who so generously help with the music and sound at ULC.

Joan, Nina, Linda, Victoria and Max make sure we almost always have at least a trio for our Sunday service. Scott, Chris, David and Rick are always here to help with the lighting and sound. Thanks to Rev. Bill and Anna, we have great presentations on the overheads.

Thanks to the choir: Joy, Mary Lee, Betty, Linda, Chereé, Victoria, Nina, Joan, Mary, Steve, James and Max. We have been blessed to have the entire Clayton family,

Chereé, Meeko, and Tasmin, play for us. A special thanks goes out to Mary Strasner for keeping us all in touch and on task with rehearsals.

Thanks to all of you for your continued love and financial support of our music ministry. Continue to keep us in your prayers as we are in preparation for the coming holidays.

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

~Meister Eckhart

Now that's no bull.

In Love, Grace & Gratitude,
~Rev Dr SuZ

Happy Anniversary to Rev. Bill for being here one year this month.



New



**Choir Members
Welcome!**

**CHOIR PRACTICE
Resumes in October!**

Our own **One Voice Choir**

Please let Rev SuZ know if you'd like to join!

AFTER FURTHER REVIEW . . .

“Gone with the Wind” is a fantastic movie first completed in 1939 and the first Cinemascope Color full-length picture Hollywood was able to produce. An epic film based on an epic book by Margaret Mitchell, who single-handedly supported black hospitals and black schools during her lifetime by supplying funds by secret courier to various organizations providing needed services for blacks in the very segregated South. Mitchell looked into the world of her beloved South, saw an inequity in need of fixing and established the communications necessary for her to secretly fund organizations that made a significant difference throughout her world.

What kind of drive did it take for her to accomplish such a feat? I think it is found in a couple of statements made by Scarlet O’Hara in her epic novel, Gone with the Wind. Twice in the novel Scarlet is driven back to Tara from Atlanta. Once when the Yankees were pressing their War of Northern Aggression through Atlanta, and once when we hear Rhett Butler’s famous quote at the end of the movie and the book when he answers Scarlet’s query as to what will become of her and what should she do, with “Frankly, I don’t give a damn!” We remember that because of its shock value, and yet that is not the end of the story. Scarlet turns, in the movie, and appears to faint on the staircase as she hears in her mind the words, “Tara, Tara, Tara, You always received your strength from the red earth of Tara” and so on.

As she rises like a Phoenix from the staircase, Scarlet says she will return to Tara and there make her plans to bring Rhett back into her life. Given all the other plans she made and all the success

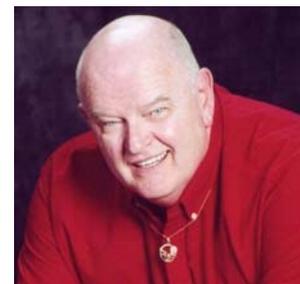
she has had in the past, there is no reason to assume she won’t accomplish her goal once again. Will it mean, “Happily ever-after?” or, “A resumption of marital bliss?” or “Another pregnancy?” – Who knows? And that isn’t the point! For it is now Margaret Mitchell rising from the ashes; author; progenitor of ideas; and birth-mother who will succeed in doing what she plans to do to assist the fledgling southern black communities and their much-needed services that becomes her clandestine joy of accomplishment.

With her mind altered by the words of her own novel, the plan of immediate action in place to provide what the “Preserved Union” was not doing, Margaret Mitchell made a huge difference in the lives of many more people than we may ever know. She didn’t wait for a feasibility study, or the results of a poll, or for anything more than her own consciousness of a situation in need of action. She took it and all are blessed as a result of her impetuous action and support freely given and gladly received by the recipients of her generosity.

May we begin to trust our own consciousness in such a way as to accomplish great things in our own lifetimes beginning right now, and right here, for that is all the time we have – the Eternal Here and Everlasting Now awaits your determination, your choice, and your decision quickly before your greatest opportunity is “Gone with the Wind”! God Bless you and your ideas as we move into the last days of our calendar year and the beginning of another year together.

And so it is!!!

Rev Dr Bill Ward



Rev Dr Bill Ward
Senior Minister



Climax!, a talk given by Ernest Holmes
(shared by Rev Dr Bill Ward)

Editor's Note: What appears here is probably one of the most unique events in the history of man.

Much has been written about those who have experienced cosmic consciousness or illumination. Then there are those who have had such experiences and later written about them; however, here is the transcript of a recording that was made while a person was having such an experience.

That person was Ernest Holmes. The setting was the dedication of Christ Church of Religious Science, Whittier, California, February 12, 1959.

Quite often in giving talks, toward the end Dr. Holmes would seem particularly inspired. His voice would take on a different caliber. To the listener he would almost seem to be a different person. This occurred during his address as the principal speaker at the dedication. Shortly after this happened he had the illuminating experience, probably the greatest in his lifetime, and abruptly ended his talk. Witnesses at the time said he appeared radiant. However, when he took his seat he seemed physically exhausted, and emotionally distraught.

That night he spoke of the experience to a friend, but never made public mention of it. We are indebted to the Reverend William M. Hart for sharing the recording with us. At the time he was President of the Board of Trustees of this Church and was present on this occasion. He is now Minister of the Church.

(Earlier portions of Dr. Holmes' talk have been deleted because they were not pertinent to this event.)

Our movement grows and expands very rapidly, as rapidly, I think as is possible because we would not wish to mistake its end and purpose, which is not the building of churches, it is not the dedicating of churches; it is what happens in them after they are built and after they are dedicated. It is what happens whenever a group of people in our conviction meet together for the only two purposes for which we exist: teaching and practice.

We are a teaching and a practicing order in the Christian faith that believes in two great fundamental realities. The Divine Presence, personal to every living soul and uniquely personal to each and every one of us that is the first great cornerstone. The next is a Power for Good and a Law of Mind in the universe greater than we are that we can use for definite and specific purposes. The first one everyone believes in; the second proposition probably twenty million people in this country now believe in, somewhat. And perhaps two hundred thousand of them really know what it is that they believe. But I doubt it.

It is our endeavor, through our educational system, to teach people what this Principle is and how to use it. It is not our endeavor to convert anybody to our faith. It is to prove something, first of all to ourselves, then to the world. And we have no authority before the world and ask for none and will have none ever, I hope, other than the authority of the work that follows the word.

(Cont., pg. 7)

The United Life Messenger

(Ernest Holmes, cont.)

How fortunate we are! How lucky you and I are that we are here tonight. We are indeed favored among all people on Earth of all ages, for we have taken the banner that Jesus resigned when he said to the thief beside him: Do not be afraid, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." It is quite a banner! It is with this banner that we go forward "obeying the Almighty effort, and advancing on chaos and the dark."

We are a teaching order, not a preaching order. We are a practicing order, not a proselyting order. The world has waited long for something to happen. Now the healing power of the unseen magic of the Spirit can be made evident. This is the basis of our cornerstone.

We have not yet done what I believe we should do with our membership. We are here tonight to dedicate a church, a physical building. I think it is beautiful, I think it is wonderful, I think it is a miracle, but I know why it is here. It is here because you are here and because the consciousnesses of all of you wonderful people have moved together. And what happened? Power! Like the weaving of a rope where one strand will hold no weight but many strands united will hold terrific weight. We have yet to see what the multiple consciousness of a church body can do if the members are properly trained, if they permit someone to exercise authority over them - not over their theology, not over their private lives, but over one thing only, their spiritual concepts: There is a Law of Good; there is a Power in the universe greater than we are and we can use It. And It will multiply Its effects a thousand times through the united consciousness of a group.

I have had so much inward conviction about this the last year. There are so many wonderful religions in the world. We are not better than the others. We are not more spiritual, we are not more evolved, we are not anything other than this one thing -

(Change of voice) We have co-joined our consciousness with the eternal guarantee of the Universe that the everlasting and eternal Father of all life and the Mother of all creation, forever begetting the only begotten, is begetting him in us, right now. And that the word of our mouth is a word of Truth in such degree as it emulates and embodies the Truth which sanctifies the word to its unique service of healing, not only the sick, but the poor in heart.

We are dedicated to the concept that the pure in heart shall see God, here; that the meek will inherit the earth, now; that one with Truth is a majority; that everyone of us in the secret place of the most High, in the center of his own consciousness, has the secret with the Eternal, the Everlasting, the Almighty, and the Ineffable. God and I are One. And I see uniting in one great inner praise, one great union of effort, one crescendo of song, and one enveloping light of consciousness . . .

(12-second pause) I see it! [A hushed but dynamic voice]

(10-second pause) O God!

(5-second pause) The veil is thin between.

(Pause) We do mingle with the hosts of heaven.

(Pause) I see it!

And I shall speak no more.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

By Mary Strasner



Mary Strasner

As an Outreach for United Life (UL), I would call this a success! To review: we helped Memorial Christian Church with their 2015 Vacation Bible School (VBS)! We met for five evenings, Sunday – Thursday, July 19-23! We served children preschool through 6th grade AND their families AND the teens and other volunteers! We had dinner together each evening, one of which was brought and served by a UL team! (Thank you, Rev! Bill, Rick, Max, Jan, and Chere!) We had two short general sessions each evening in a sanctuary transformed by dozens of pandas and rocks and trees – one after dinner and another after our four groups had met! Children by age groups spent 25-30 minutes each in games, crafts, stories, and music! (The song “God is Wild about You” is STILL in my head!)

I was in charge of the stories! Each night we watched part of a video mystery with pandas PLUS I read or told a Bible story! The team agreed that I would select New Testament parables and other teachings of Jesus to substitute what the curriculum offered! (Thank you to Rev! Bill, Mike, and Push for support with this!) These went with the verses: “God created you; God watches over you; God listens to you; God loves you no matter what, and God blesses us!” The kid numbers were not huge – 37, 32, 22, 20 – but they all heard about a loving God who wants us to have and be our best! Even the fearful child asking about the devil and Satan settled down by the second night!



The children were precious! They pondered whether God can fly (grappling with omnipresence), what does he look like (with drawings plus “I love you from God and Jesus”), and wanted to know about “will God get a new arthritis medicine for Grandma” as I asked them to share “God sightings” each day!

Results? One night at dinner, I answered these questions for a couple - “You’re Methodists, right?” and, “Is this Scientology?” Plus on the last night, after the director shared that everyone and everything was less stressful this year, I told her that UL had been praying (aka treating) that the VBS way be made “easy, straight, and successful”!

She thought that sounded like what demonstrated! Some of the results will surface over the years as children grow with and evolve the idea of a loving and powerful God with whom we co-create but the seeds already within them have been nurtured! Thank you to Rev! Bill for his outreach to MAEC (which is how we became involved with this year’s VBS) and thanks also to UL for your support! That would also include Glen Wicker, a UL member and our webmaster! At my request for the week of VBS, he put the VBS registration form on our website which led to a conversation with a new visitor about what UL has on the internet!

LET GO AND SING!

A poem by Joan Sisco

SOM Mag, January 1980, pgs 54-55

The world sings with the Presence of God:
At times a muted song, so soft one must listen
from deep within to hear it,
At other times, so vibrant and beautiful
there is no mistaking it.
But soft or loud, it is always there,
Always in Perfect Harmony
Always in Perfect Tune.
No apparent misdeed can bring discord to
God's Perfect Song, for it ever sings of
Peace on Earth, Goodwill to men.
I am a word of this Song. . . A song within the
Song.
I marvel at my uniqueness and stand in awe at the
immensity of His Music.

With inner ear, I hear the music swell.

With inner eye, I see the music take form:

a sturdy tree, an agile hummingbird;
a tiny blade of grass, the pounding waves;
the small planet called Earth, the myriad of galaxies;
a baby, eager to sing;
a youth filled with the melody of growth and wonder;
an old person filled with the music of a lifetime.

I see it all as One Song and we are all one with It.
The Father sings His Song through me and
the Spirit in all things hears and sings in return.
The Father in All sings to me and the Spirit within me
hears and answers back.

We all,

tree, bird, grass, waves, Earth, galaxies, baby,
youth, old person, and I,

Lift our voices in perfect harmony into a great
crescendo of praise and gratitude.

Conscious of the support I give to and receive from
all things,

I let go, Father, and

Sing!



The United Life Messenger

WE ARE OPEN

SUNDAY

Youth Classes	10:00 am
Meditation Service	10 - 10:20 am
Celebration Service	10:30 - 11:30 am
Choir Practice	See Rev SuZ
Toning & Meditation Circle	2nd Sun , 5 pm
Practitioner Meeting	4th Sun , 12Noon

MONDAY

Toastmasters	7 - 8 pm
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TUESDAY

Visioning Class (join by 22SEP)	10am <u>OR</u> 6pm
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WEDNESDAY

Foundations Class (join thru SEP)	10 am - 1 pm
White Bison Society	6 - 8 pm
OKC Reiki Energy Circle	1st Wed, 2 pm 3rd Wed, 7 pm

THURSDAY

Stewardship Team Meeting	Sep. 17th, 5pm
OKC Reiki Energy Circle	4th Thu, 6:30 pm
5 Gifts for an Abundant Life Class (join by 22SEP)	6 pm

SATURDAY

Community Garden (come-n-go)	8:30 am - Noon
Creative Spirits (come-n-go) (2nd & 4th Sat. at Christine's-call 943.0426)	9:00 am - Noon
OKC Reiki Energy Circle	2nd Sat, 11 am (OR 3rd & 5th)

Keeping You in the Loop

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

~YTD: 1539 ~August 2015: 247 (5 Sundays)

NEW MEMBERS

~YTD: 11 ~August 2015: 2

FINANCIALS

~YTD Income: \$ 72,996~~69~~

~YTD Expenses: \$ 87,263~~72~~ (some attributed to Sanctuary
A/V & Lighting donations received in 2014 but not spent until 2015)

~August Inc: \$ 9,286~~62~~

~August Exp: \$ 12,568~~59~~

Pastoral Care

If you know of someone in
need of care or prayer,

Send a prayer request
(hardcopy or website), email
us, contact a minister or any
MAC member below.

Reach Out to Your Practitioners!

Practitioners are available
for Spiritual Mind
Treatment by
appointment and after
our Sunday services.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Info@UnitedLife.org

Rev Dr Bill Ward, Sr Minister 946.6753
Rev Dr SuZ Ogden, Music Director 473.8828
Jan Brown, Administrator 946.6753

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Rick Wicker, President..... 395.7191
Deanie Wright, Vice President..... 359.7638
Bob Williams, Treasurer 354.3039
David Ackley, Secretary 501.2201

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, cont.

Anna Otto, Trustee..... 205.7802
Chris Van Zant, Trustee 528.4626

LICENSED PRACTITIONERS

(MAC-Ministerial Advisory Council)

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Scott Bryden, RScP.....205.0916
Dorothy Danen, RScP.....826.1935
Barbara Hartman, RScP.....951.537.8179
Ray Reid, RScP.....917.7573
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Rev Bob Williams, (Hon).....354.3039
Johnie Wright, RScP.....359.7638

September 2015

United Life Center for Spiritual Living—OKC

3332 N Meridian Ave, Oklahoma City, OK

www.UnitedLife.org • Info@UnitedLife.org



United Life Messenger

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 Youth Classes 10:00 Meditation 10:30 Celebration Service 11:30 BIRTHDAY CAKE/ Noon Education Team	7 7:00 pm Toastmasters	8 10am <u>or</u> 6pm Visioning Class (open thru 22SEP)	9 10am Foundations Class (open thru SEP) 6:00 White Bison	10 6pm 5 Gifts for an Abundant Life Class (open thru 24SEP)	11 4pm LC Meeting 6:30 pm Substance Abuse Group	12 (come-n-go) 9am—12Noon Creative Spirits 11am OKC Reiki Energy Circle
13 60th Celebration 10:00 Youth Classes 10:00 Meditation 10:30 Celebration Service LC Meeting 11SEP instead 5 pm Toning & Meditation	14 7:00 pm Toastmasters	15 10am <u>or</u> 6pm Visioning Class (open thru 22SEP)	16 10am Foundations Class (open thru SEP) 6:00 White Bison 7:00 OKC Reiki	17 5pm Stewardship Team Meeting 6pm 5 Gifts for an Abundant Life Class (open thru 24SEP)	18 6:30 pm Substance Abuse Group	19
20 10:00 Youth Classes 10:00 Meditation 10:30 Celebration Service 11:30 *NO* POTLUCK	21 7:00 pm Toastmasters	22 10am <u>or</u> 6pm Visioning Class (open thru 22SEP)	23 10am Foundations Class (open thru SEP) 6:00 White Bison	24 6pm 5 Gifts for an Abundant Life Class (open thru 24SEP)	25 6:30 pm Substance Abuse Group	26 (come-n-go) 9am—12Noon Creative Spirits
27 10:00 Youth Classes 10:00 Meditation 10:30 Celebration Service Noon Practitioner Meeting	28 7:00 pm Toastmasters	29 10am <u>or</u> 6pm Visioning Class (open thru 22SEP)	30 10am Foundations Class (open thru SEP)			

The United Life Messenger

Enlightenment for Successful Living in the 21st Century

OUR VISION

We are a loving spiritual community,
joyfully expressing Spirit.

OUR PROSPERITY AFFIRMATION

We express the overflowing prosperous
nature of God,
both in our Spiritual Community,
and in our own personal lives.

MISSION STATEMENT

By practicing the Science of
Mind Principles, we honor the
presence of God in all,

Nurture and support spiritual
growth and transformation,

Empower people to create
happy, healthy, abundant lives.



Centers for
Spiritual Living

United Life Center for Spiritual Living—OKC

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Celebrating

60 Years

in OKC

1955 - 2015

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

